

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 29, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Ben Moore, Chairman
Bill Lally, Vice Chairman
James Workman
Virginia Bridle-Russell
Fred Welch, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Rick Griffin

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced those in attendance.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Workman announced that “trick or treating” will be on Halloween (October 31) starting at 5:30 p.m. He also announced the Veterans’ Day (November 11) memorial starting at 8 a.m. at the Hampton Beach War Memorial. The observance will then continue at the American Legion Post at 11 a.m.

Chairman Moore said that the fall leaf collection will occur during the month of November. The pickup will take place on Mondays for the entire month. He also announced the Jingle Bell Fair on Saturday, November 10 at 9 a.m. at the First Congregational Church.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. JOHN NICKERSON & BRAD JETT – CH22 EQUIPMENT EXPLANATION & PURCHASE

Chairman of the Cable TV Advisory Committee, John Nickerson and Committee member Brad Jett addressed the Board. Mr. Nickerson mentioned that Mr. Jett is the Cable Committee’s technical advisor and they have come before the Board to request authorization to purchase a variety of items for Channel 22. The Cable Committee Chairman presented a \$1,194 quote for a generator to operate film production equipment when in the field (i.e. Deliberative Session).

Mr. Nickerson also provided a \$3,136 quote for the following equipment: digital camera, zoom & focus controller, long life battery, filter, cleaning tape, hard case and XLR adaptor. He also presented a quote of \$10,990 for a digital player/recorder automation controller, 500GB hard drive, rack mount, 1250VA UPS with LCD panel, installation, testing, training and technical support. Mr. Nickerson explained that the current switcher/controller is old and worn out. A new system is needed so that programs will play when they are scheduled. Mr. Jett said that the proposed controller is actually a hard drive which has many capabilities to improve broadcasting efficiencies. The proposed system will enable residents to create and submit their event

slide online. All slides will then be reviewed and approved by staff before being broadcast. Once the event is over the slide will delete automatically. In addition, the system can generate DVD copies while the meeting is being recorded. The proposed system will reduce the bulletin time duration and allow more meetings/special events to be rebroadcast.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to authorize the purchase of the previously mentioned items for a total of \$15,320 **Mr. Workman SECONDED**.

Discussion:

Mr. Workman asked if the “*Elmo*” has been repaired. Mr. Jett reported that there was a bad cable connection and believes the problem has been resolved.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RCCD), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARY CURRIER, HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ELLEN GOETHEL

- *Watershed Analysis Report for the Landing Road Area*

Mary Currier, Executive Director of the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) and the Hampton Conservation Commission Chairman, Ellen Goethel addressed the Board. Ms. Currier presented the “*Landing Road Wetland Restoration*” report for the Town of Hampton. The Town of Hampton with the support of the Rockingham County Conservation District requested assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a plan for restoring and protecting the wetlands above Landing Road.

The objectives of the project were to address the following concerns and opportunities at the site:

- *The primary objective is to implement measures to restore and protect the marsh above Landing Road and north of Route 101.*
- *A second objective includes evaluating alternatives for improving the flow of stormwater discharge from the residential and WHS areas.*
- *There is also a need to evaluate potential flooding problems and damage from stormwater runoff from the residential and WHS areas as well as increased tidal inflow into the residential and school areas.*

Ms. Currier mentioned that two years ago the Town of Hampton applied for a Wildlife Habitat Incentives program through the NRCS. Mrs. Goethel noted that money authorized by a town meeting vote supported the phragmites and mosquito control program. The Town held off on proceeding with the control program until there was salt marsh restoration priority list established by RCCD. Once Landing Road was identified as the major priority the project went forward. The Town is working on placing a culvert in the Landing Road area and believes that the phragmites control work will be completed by this winter.

Ms. Currier noted that RCCD will be working on the Dredge and Fill application with the Hampton Conservation Commission for the Landing Road culvert. This procedure will be the first phase for the final engineering project to restore the salt marsh.

A copy of the report will be provided to the Planning office and to the Conservation Commission Coordinator. A copy will also be available in a pdf format so that it can be posted the Town’s website.

3. PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS MANAGER DOUG MELLIN – UPDATE

Operations Manager Doug Mellin presented the Public Works Department update. Now that the summer season is gone the Department has been busy with paving repairs throughout town. Mr. Mellin noted that APEX has begun construction repairs at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Moore asked about the manhole work being done on Landing Road. Mr. Mellin reported that the work is to repair the manhole cover.

Public Works warrant articles will be reviewed on November 19th.

Mr. Moore asked about the construction project along Sanborn Road. Mr. Mellin said that the project is going well and the project should be complete within a week. The next scheduled project is drain repair along Park Avenue towards Winnacunnet Road.

4. DOC NOEL, GINNI MCNAMARA & DYANA MARTIN – HOLIDAY EVENT

Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce representative Doc Noel explained that the Chamber Board of Directors voted to discontinue the Annual Children's Christmas Parade due to recent legislation. The Chamber Board of Director's recently approved the Director of Special Events, Ginni McNamara's proposal for a "new" event.

Ms. McNamara explained that in cooperation with the Hampton Recreation Department the Chamber would like to hold a new children's holiday event on Saturday, December 1 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. with a snow date of December 8.

Recreation and Parks Director, Dyana Martin said that the event can be a family weekend with the tree lighting event to get residents in the holiday spirit.

The event would require Lafayette Road to be closed from High Street to Foss Manufacturing. A Santa Village will be created at the Gazebo and there will be music, costume contests, face painters and street performers at the event.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to close Lafayette Road from High Street to Foss Manufacturing on December 1 (Snow date December 8) from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in support of the Children's Holiday Carnival as presented by the Chamber of Commerce and in cooperation with the Hampton Recreation Department holiday events. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

Discussion:

Mr. Lally noted that the portion of road being closed is smaller in comparison to what is required by a parade.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – OCTOBER 22, 2007

Page 8 – top of page – under "Solid Waste & Recycling" – last sentence should read as follows: "...contact either the Town Manager or Mr. Lally."

The October 22, 2007 minutes stand approved as corrected.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing on the question of cable franchise re-licensing on October 24, 2007 that was continued. Any citizen who has concerns regarding the current franchise holder is requested to submit any comments or specific concerns in writing to the Board of Selectmen. Resident concerns will allow the Board to correct identified problems during the re-licensing process.

A conditional award of a bid to remove asbestos from the Waste Water Treatment Plant's old lab was awarded to North Ridge Environmental of Northwood, NH in the amount of \$2,500. Northwood was the only bidder.

2. PRIVATE ROADWAY SERVICES/ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY LANES

Chairman Moore stated that the statute is clear; public funds are not to be expended on private property. He noted that the Board has reviewed the various options to legally maintain and plow private roadways. Either the Town needs to stop providing services or charge a fee. Mr. Moore also stated that designating private roads as an emergency lane is cumbersome and is completely unsatisfactory since there is a need to have 100% participation from all property owners.

Mr. Lally asked how the Town would charge a fee and questioned if there would be a need to have one person representing the street. He also noted that collecting from all property owners along a private street would be virtually impossible.

Establishing a fair fee was also questioned as some years there is more snow and ice than others.

Town Manager Welch said that there is no way to come up with a suitable fee because removing snow from each roadway differs as some roads do not have adequate snow storage and the snow must be trucked away.

Back in July the Town Manager drafted a letter to all property owners along private roadways notifying them that service (plowing, sanding/salting,) will no longer be provided as of March 2008. This letter was not sent.

Mr. Moore suggested that the Board review the most recent motion(s) regarding servicing private roadways. There may be a need to expand or clarify past motions regarding this matter.

3. WARRANT ARTICLES

Fire Chief Lipe, Deputy Fire Chief Benotti and Deputy Fire Chief Silver addressed the Board.

Fire Stations

A warrant article was presented to the Board regarding two new public safety buildings. The article asks if the townspeople would like to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,091,600 for the purpose of constructing and equipping these buildings. The article deals with issuance of bonds or notes for 30 years. It also involves the demolition of the old Town Office Building on Winnacunnet Road. The first building is to be a new Fire Department sub-station located (two story, 8,800 square feet) on the south side of the current Police Facility on Ashworth Avenue. The second facility is to be a new Fire Department headquarters and Safety Services Center being a two story structure with a total area of 22,500 square feet. The Center is to retain the two current

equipment bays with the remainder of the current building being demolished and with two new equipment bays to be added together with a Headquarters building and Safety Services Center on the west side of the retained equipment bays that will include space of the current Fire Department and Town Building inspection departments, the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board offices, the Town's Emergency Management Facility, a community and Board meeting room, Fire Department offices and facilities.

Chief Lipe reported that approximately 20 spaces in the Ashworth parking lot will be lost (if lot is re-lined) due to the construction of the substation. The proposal includes a walk-in medical center at the beach facility.

On December 10th a formal and complete presentation on the fire station proposal will be hosted by the Fire Department.

Fire Department Bucket Truck

The Fire Department has prepared a warrant article for \$45,000 to purchase a used bucket truck. Chief Lipe noted that the truck would be a low frequency vehicle that would be used periodically.

The Town Manager mentioned that all warrant articles are being reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to move the Bucket Truck article to the warrant. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Federal Homeland Security Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Program

In attempt to utilize federal funding and to hire four additional firefighters/EMT's an article has been developed. The article specifies the Town portion and federal funds from 2009 to 2012.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if hiring additional firefighters will reduce overtime costs. Deputy Chief Silver explained that the hiring should reallocate costs. That is, instead of spending money on overtime it is likely that it will be allocated toward regular wages and benefits. It is difficult to determine the exact impact that the proposal will have on the budget.

Mr. Lally asked if the "*No Means No*" law would prevent the Town from hiring additional firefighters if the article failed. Town Manager Welch said that the article asks permission to apply for, contract, accept and expend SAFER funding. He also noted that the article also states that it "shall be null and void if the Federal funding is not approved or received." Therefore, it is his belief that the Town would still be able to hire even if funding was not approved by the voters. Town Attorney Gearreald disagreed with the Manager's interpretation of the article and believes that the Town would not be able to hire if the article failed.

Mr. Lally said that the Fire Department is understaffed and needs to return to appropriate staffing levels. He is against hiring people by warrant article however understands that the SAFER program provides the Town with an opportunity to receive federal funds. Mr. Lally believes that the overtime levels will decrease with proper staffing levels.

The Town Manager said that either the Town can spend \$144,698 in regular wages over five years or spend over \$500,000 in overtime.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to move the SAFER program article to the warrant. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

Discussion:

Attorney Gearreald noted that he is still working on the wording of the article.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Fire Rescue/Pumper

Two article versions of a fire rescue/pumper were presented to the Board. Figures for the article are still being worked on. Deputy Chief Benotti said that five and ten year bonds are being considered. He also pointed out that a 10 year bond will cost more in interest.

Mr. Moore suggested a ten year capital reserve fund be set up to purchase future fire equipment. The equipment is necessary and planning for future purchases should be considered.

There was discussion on whether taxpayers should pay over the life span of the equipment or for a shorter period.

Pumpers should be replaced every ten years. Fire maintenance costs for the current pumpers have been included in the 2008 budget.

Mr. Lally said that the focus should be on adding firefighters and the proposed fire stations. He understands that there is a need for pumpers but is doubtful that voters will support every Fire Department article. Mrs. Bridle-Russell agreed with Mr. Lally's comments and noted that there is a fire hose article on the warrant as well. She would like to hold off on the article until next year. Mr. Workman said that he would rather a pumper than a bucket truck. Mr. Moore mentioned that equipment is necessary in order for personnel to effectively fight fires. Mr. Moore would like the Town to consider establishing a capital reserve fund for purchasing pumpers in the future. Chief Lipe said that he does not want to jeopardize the article for the SAFER program or for the fire stations by putting too many Fire Department articles on the ballot. Deputy Chief Benotti pointed out that equipment and facilities have an impact on efficiencies, workload and ultimately overtime.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to purchase one Fire Rescue/Pumper for \$485,000.

Motion FAILED - lack of second

Cable TV Local Origination Fund

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to move the Cable TV Local Origination Fund article (\$100,000) to the warrant. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to move the Big Brothers Big Sisters article (\$6,500) to the warrant. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Rockingham Community Action

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to move the Rockingham Community Action article (\$25,000) to the warrant. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Seacoast Hospice

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to move the Seacoast Hospice article (\$7,500) to the warrant. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Sexual Assault Support Services

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to move the Sexual Assault Support Services article (\$2,000) to the warrant. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Police Forfeiture Fund

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to move the Police Forfeiture Fund article (\$90,000) to the warrant. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Moore scheduled the warrant article as follows:

- November 5 – General Warrant Articles
- November 19 – DPW Articles
- November 26 – Library & Recreation Articles
- December 10 – Fire Station Article
- January 7 – Cemetery Trustees

Mr. Lally questioned why there was a proposed bike path article. Mr. Welch noted that he was instructed to by the Board of Selectmen. It is a commitment that the Town made to the Rockingham Planning Commission many years ago. There is funding available for the project through DOT.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED for the Selectmen to meet on November 12 (observed Veteran's Day). **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 2 FOR
2 OPPOSED – Moore & Workman**

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to appoint Mary-Louise Woolsey, Paul Ayer, Debbie Corcoran, Charles Preston, Fred Rice, Geannina Guzman-Scanlon to the Hampton Solid Waste & Recycling Committee. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Workman asked about the status of the bench along Mill Road. Mr. Welch will report on this item next week.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ENERGY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to appoint Jim Magruder and Russ Bernstein to the Hampton Energy Committee.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.

Discussion:

The next Hampton Energy Committee meeting will be October 31 at 8 p.m.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. SCHEDULE CABLE FRANCHISE PUBLIC HEARING

A Comcast re-licensing public hearing was held last Wednesday, October 24 at the Winnacunnet High School auditorium. It was determined that a hearing was necessary on a weekend so that residents have an opportunity to voice their concerns.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to schedule a cable franchise public hearing on Saturday, November 17 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's meeting room. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Moore announced a non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, I (b) at the conclusion of tonight's Selectmen's meeting.

The Tax Collector and Assessor are working on the final details for the tax warrant and will not be available for signing until later in the week.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to schedule a special meeting on Friday, November 2 at 7 a.m. to review and sign the "Second Half" 2007 the Real Estate Tax Warrant. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Release of Notice of Welfare Lien

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to sign the release of notice of welfare lien as presented. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Pierce (16 Hedman Avenue) discussed the proposed article for the fire stations and asked if the Fire Station Committee's recommendations regarding the location were considered. Mr. Moore confirmed that the location was recommended by the Committee. He also mentioned that he is not in favor of a capital reserve fund as he would rather have taxpayers pay for items while they are living in Hampton.

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Moore noted that a capital reserve fund brings forward the benefit of past decisions to current taxpayers by planning for a regular equipment replacement cycle.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. to a non-meeting. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman